

**To: Senator Gayle Slossberg, Co-Chair
Rep. James Spallone, Co-Chair
Members of the Government, Administration & Elections Committee**

**From: Marc S. Herzog, Chancellor
Connecticut Community Colleges**

**Re: Public Hearing Testimony re HB 5520
An Act Concerning the Conveyance of Certain Parcels of State Land**

Date: March 4, 2010

The Board of Trustees of the Connecticut Community College System has serious concerns with regard to Raised Bill No. 5520. Section 17 of this bill relates to Middlesex Community College (MXCC), the Connecticut Valley Hospital reservoir, and a proposed conservation easement on the College's property.

Bill No. 5520 would affect the Middlesex campus dramatically and most detrimentally. Both the College and the Connecticut Community College System realize that the College is in an environmentally sensitive area. The Community College System has a strong commitment to the surrounding environment, the local community and its citizens. However, the proposed conservation easement would place undue hardship on the college by eliminating future potential renovation or expansion projects, and limit the college in performing regular necessary maintenance projects for existing facilities and parking lots (i.e.; resurfacing parking lots, power washing and/or sealing of brick walls, reroofing, etc.). The following points pertain:

- MXCC and the Community College System are fully committed to maintaining and protecting the water supply and forest that surrounds the college.
- The official survey indicates Middlesex Community College property consists of a total of 35.143 acres. The Watershed Boundary Line (WBL) runs at a diagonal through the college site from the Northeast to the Southwest corners, terminating on the college's property near Training Hill Road at the Southerly Property Line.
- The proposed conservation easement affects five of MXCC's buildings. The buildings are currently either completely within, or are bordering on, the Watershed Boundary Line. The buildings include: Snow, Wheaton Hall, Founders Hall, the Central Plant building, and the maintenance building.
- The ball field does fall within the WBL and is owned and maintained by MXCC although usage is shared with the town and the various teams. The only maintenance MXCC does to that ball field is to mow the grass.
- All capital improvements projects undertaken by the College are done with environmentally conscious and sustainable design techniques and construction efforts as major goals of the project. It is a requirement to design the college's major capital improvements according to Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design (LEED) standards and environmentally friendly guidelines; both the Community College System and the Department of Public Works have been leaders in environmentally friendly, "green buildings."
- While MXCC has no immediate plans for expansion, should MXCC ever expand in the future, an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) is required and will take in to account the surrounding forest and aquifer. The College is fully committed to required compliance with the EIE process and college will not attempt any "fast track" procedures or exemptions.

We request the College's property be removed from the proposed conveyance. We are hopeful that you will consider the request of the Board of Trustees of the Community College System and Middlesex Community College to preserve the integrity of the college's property and eliminate the potential detrimental effects of an unnecessary easement.